

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, comprising:  
inputting selection information including the user characteristic;  
inputting management information;  
selecting at least one of the plurality of computers based on the selection information; and  
modifying the at least one selected computer based on the management information.
2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein selecting includes identifying at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user having the user characteristic.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and selecting includes identifying at least one of the plurality of computers having the computer characteristic.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and selecting includes identifying at least one of the plurality of computers having the computer characteristic and the at least one of the plurality of computers is associated with the user having the user characteristic.
5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein selecting and modifying are performed when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the plurality of computers.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein selecting and modifying are performed when the user characteristic is one of changed and added.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the user characteristic is related to an employment function of the user.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the user characteristic is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier.

9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers.

10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group, a geographic identifier, and configuration information.

11. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein modifying includes transmitting software to the at least one selected computer from a software database, and installing the software on the at least one selected computer.

12. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the management information includes a software identifier and an action to be performed on the at least one selected computer.

13. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying the management information associated with the user, wherein the management information includes at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the

user, at least one installation associated with the user, and at least one task associated with the user.

14. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

15. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

16. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising modifying a computer based on the user characteristic that is one of stored in a database and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user.

17. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising storing at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database.

18. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

19. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising populating an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data.

20. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising populating a target database with data from an external database, the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

21. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising checking newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict.

22. A method for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, comprising:

inputting selection information including one of the user characteristic and a computer characteristic into a selected computer;

transmitting the selection information to a managing computer;

searching in a database for the selection information and management information associated with the selection information; and

modifying the selected computer based on the management information.

23. A computer recording medium including computer executable code for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the computer recording medium comprising:

code for inputting selection information including the user characteristic;

code for inputting management information;

code for selecting at least one of the plurality of computers based on the selection information; and

code for modifying the at least one selected computer based on the management information.

24. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the code for selecting includes code for identifying at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user having the user characteristic.

25. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the code for selecting at least one computer includes code for identifying at least one of the plurality of computers having the computer characteristic.

26. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the code for selecting at least one computer includes code for identifying at least one of the plurality of computers having the computer characteristic and the at least one of the plurality of computers is associated with the user having the user characteristic.

27. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

code for selecting at least one of the plurality of computers and modifying the at least one selected computer when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the plurality of computers.

28. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

code for selecting at least one of the plurality of computers and modifying the at least one selected computer when the user characteristic is one of changed and added.

29. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the user characteristic is related to an employment function of the user.

30. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the user characteristic is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier.

31. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers.

32. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group, a geographic identifier, and configuration information.

33. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the code for modifying comprises code for transmitting software to the at least one selected computer from a software database, and code for installing the software on the at least one selected computer.

34. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, wherein management information includes a software identifier and an action to be performed on the at least one selected computer.

35. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

code for displaying the management information associated with the user, wherein the management information includes at least one of the plurality of

computers associated with the user, at least one installation associated with the user, and at least one task associated with the user.

36. The as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

code for displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

37. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

code for providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

38. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

code for modifying a computer based on the user characteristic that is one of stored in a database and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user.

39. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

code for storing at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database.

40. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

code for interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

41. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

code for populating an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data.

42. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

code for populating a target database with data from an external database, the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

43. The computer recording medium as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

code for checking newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict.

44. A computer recording medium including computer executable code for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the computer recording medium comprising:

code for inputting selection information including one of the user characteristic and a computer characteristic into a selected computer;

code for transmitting the selection information to a managing computer;

code for searching in a database for the selection information and management information associated with the selection information; and

code for modifying the selected computer based on the management information.



45. A programmed computer system for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the programmed computer system residing on a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the following operations:

- input selection information including the user characteristic;
- input management information;
- select at least one of the plurality of computers based on the selection information; and
- modify the at least one selected computer based on the management information.

46. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to identify at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user having the user characteristic.

47. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and further comprising instructions for causing a computer to identify at least one of the plurality of computers having the computer characteristic.

48. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and further comprising instructions for causing a computer to identify at least one of the plurality of computers having the computer characteristic and the at least one of the plurality of computers is associated with the user having the user characteristic.

49. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to select at least one of the plurality of computers and modify the at least one selected computer when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the plurality of computers.

50. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to select at least one of the plurality of computers and modify the at least one selected computer when the user characteristic is one of changed and added.

51. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, wherein the user characteristic is related to an employment function of the user.

52. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, wherein the user characteristic is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier.

53. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers.

54. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group, a geographic identifier, and configuration information.

55. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to transmit software to the at least one

selected computer from a software database, and install the software on the at least one selected computer.

56. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, wherein the management information includes a software identifier and an action to be performed on the at least one selected computer.

57. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to display the management information associated with the user, wherein the management information includes at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user, at least one installation associated with the user, and at least one task associated with the user.

58. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to display information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

59. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to provide a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

60. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to modify a computer based on the user characteristic that is one of stored in a database and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user.

61. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to store at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database.

62. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to interface with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

63. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to populate an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data.

64. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to populate a target database with data from an external database, the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

65. The programmed computer system as recited in claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to check newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict.

66. A programmed computer system for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the programmed computer system residing on a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the following operations:

input selection information including one of the user characteristic and a computer characteristic into a selected computer;  
transmit the selection information to a managing computer;  
search in a database for the selection information and management information associated with the selection information; and  
modify the selected computer based on the management information.

67. A programmed computer apparatus for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the programmed computer apparatus performing steps comprising:  
inputting selection information including the user characteristic;  
inputting management information;  
selecting at least one of the plurality of computers based on the selection information; and  
modifying the at least one selected computer based on the management information.

68. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, wherein selecting includes identifying at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user having the user characteristic.

69. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and selecting includes identifying at least one of the plurality of computers having the computer characteristic.

70. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and selecting includes

identifying at least one of the plurality of computers having the computer characteristic and the at least one of the plurality of computers is associated with the user having the user characteristic.

71. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, wherein selecting and modifying are performed when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the plurality of computers.

72. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, wherein selecting and modifying are performed when the user characteristic is one of changed and added.

73. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, wherein the user characteristic is related to an employment function of the user.

74. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, wherein the user characteristic is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier.

75. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers.

76. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group, a geographic identifier, and configuration information.

77. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, wherein modifying includes transmitting software to the at least one selected computer from a software database, and installing the software on the at least one selected computer.

78. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, wherein the management information includes a software identifier and an action to be performed on the at least one selected computer.

79. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, further performing the step of displaying the management information associated with the user, wherein the management information includes at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user, at least one installation associated with the user, and at least one task associated with the user.

80. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, further performing the step of displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

81. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, further performing the step of providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

82. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, further performing the step of modifying a computer based on the user characteristic that is one of stored in a database and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user.

83. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, further performing the step of storing at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database.

84. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, further performing the step of interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

85. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, further performing the step of populating an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data.

86. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, further performing the step of populating a target database with data from an external database, the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

87. The programmed computer apparatus as recited in claim 67, further performing the step of checking newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict.

88. A programmed computer apparatus for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the programmed computer apparatus performing steps comprising:

inputting selection information including one of the user characteristic and a computer characteristic into a selected computer;

transmitting the selection information to a managing computer;



searching in a database for the selection information and management information associated with the selection information; and  
modifying the selected computer based on the management information.